

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-6 and 8-16 remain pending herein.

In response to paragraph “2” on page 2 of the Office Action, submitted herewith as Appendix A are Replacement Drawing Figures.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Office Action contains a statement that claim 1 should recite that the lower end of the pile sleeve has a diameter of more than 2.5 meters.

Claim 1 has been amended as set forth above to recite that the lower end of the pile sleeve has a diameter of more than 2.5 meters, as requested in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. PTO reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

Claims 1-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Office Action contains a statement that claim 1 should be amended to recite that the lower end of the pile sleeve has a diameter of more than 2.5 meters. As noted above, claim 1 has been amended herein to recite that the lower end of the pile sleeve has a diameter of more than 2.5 meters. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the U.S. PTO reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

In view of the above, claims 1-6 and 8-16 are in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes that contact with Applicants’ attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call Applicants’ attorney at the phone number noted below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1446.

Respectfully submitted,

March 2, 2006

Date



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Amendments to the Drawings:

Attached hereto as Appendix A are Replacement Sheets for Figs. 1-10.